

Membership Zoom Meeting
February 24, 2021
Attending- 44

President Barbara White opened our meeting with a welcome to all.

Presenter Tom Wild, VP of the Virginia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, spoke on Restoration of the American Chestnut: "TACF current activities and new directions."

This talk was divided into 3 sections:

Description and history of the American Chestnut Tree

Main Players: American Chestnut, Chinese Chestnut, European Chestnut and Japanese Chestnut Trees

Breeding Program:

In 1903, Charles Burnham developed a program to bring back the American Chestnut by cross breeding with the Chinese Chestnut which has genes resistive to the blight that killed off almost all the American Chestnuts. This method of back crossing is still being used today but not turning out as well as hoped. The Foundation along with other Chestnut groups are looking at improving testing accuracy and speed, continue planting more trees than have previously been planted and adding new resources for blight resistance such as biogenetics.

Tom described the many efforts of remediation and restoration that continues at research centers, National Parks and the forestry service.

Members questions and comments reflected much interest in the restoration of this historic tree of America.

Business Meeting:

Treasury Report-Michelle Cormier

Checking Account Balance: \$ 6, 791.00.

Mooney Market Account: \$20,131.17

85 members have paid their dues

Communications- Penny Kaiserlian, Martha Orton

Mailing lists have grown with the promotions of Tree Basics classes on Zoom. The March and April Tree Basics classes are open to CATS since Zoom allows 100 participants; however, registration is necessary in order that the Zoom invitation can be sent to participants. More information will come from Libby in the blast. CATS' Facebook has 720 followers and is very active.

Education- Tim Maywalt

The speaker for the March 24 Membership meeting is Jeremy Hoffman, Chief Scientist at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond. The topic of his talk is the historical contest of present-day environmental inequality. The March Tree Basics Classes is "Select, Plant and Care

for Trees.” April’s class will be “Tree Id-Spring.” The status of the fall Tree Stewards training class will be dependent on COVID restrictions at that time.

Bill Sublette and Mary Spear are putting together a CATS photo library that should be up and running shortly. There will also be an updated waiver for photos/videos which will remove restraints that were part of the old waiver. Libby will be distributing the new waiver to all members, but only those who want to contribute photos for the new photo library need to sign.

Projects-Kathy Nepote

Most all February scheduled projects had to be cancelled due to weather. The Feb. 23 pruning at John Warner Parkway occurred as scheduled. Feb. 27 has been designated as a work day at the Grove, but rain is forecasted, so there is a back up date of March 27. Other rescheduled Feb. projects are as follows: March 3-Jackson Via, March 11-VDOF pruning, March 18-John Warner Parkway Pruning. TIF will have sign ups and time of each work project.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00